



1980s – BIG CHANGES

The 1980s was a decade of BIG THINGS. Big people, big challenges, and big changes. In 1980, Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope in St. John's and 'O Canada' was adopted as the official National Anthem. The Canadarm was first deployed to the International Space Station in 1981, and in 1982 the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was signed into law on April 17.

The first female supreme court justice and first female Governor General were appointed (1983), the Winter Olympics were held in Calgary (1988). The Meech Lake Accord was signed in June 1987, and on January 1, 1989, the Canadian-American Free Trade Agreement was enacted, which was a polarizing issue across the country.

It was also a big decade for CAMA, with lots of changes within the Association and an impressive slate of conferences. At the helm of the organization were representatives from across the country representing six Provinces and Territories:

- 1980 David W. Gairns – Whitehorse, YT
- 1981 Cy T.C. Armstrong – Hamilton-Westworth, ON
- 1982 H. Michael Day – Red Deer, AB
- 1983 William K. Mann – Regina, SK
- 1984 Jim G. King – Cambridge, ON
- 1985 Tom McKay – St. Albert, AB
- 1986 Jacques Cloutier – Ste. Foy, QC
- 1987 Alcide DeGagne – Ottawa, ON
- 1988 Frank P. Power – St. John's, NL
- 1989 Bob Linner – Regina, SK

1984 was a particularly big year for CAMA, with both the adoption of the 5-Year Corporate Plan and a revised Constitution. This paved the way for the official incorporation of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators in 1986. By that year, the Association had grown to 230+ members, with over 60% of those attending the conference as a delegate.

CAMA had also grown enough by this time to hire a full-time manager of administrative services and launched a new newsletter to keep the membership informed. That newsletter, called the *CAMA Bulletin*, had seven (7) issues per year, with 600 copies being printed and mailed. With advertising revenues around \$3,000, the Association's total investment was just under \$1.50 per copy!

In 1987, a new award was announced. The Education Award was established to build a library of Canadianized documents to help with the education and professional development of those in local government administration. Royal Bank was the original sponsor of this award, with a \$1,000 prize going to the winner.

In the 1980s, conferences once again criss-crossed the country. Winnipeg, Vancouver (North Vancouver) and Québec City were all repeat locations, with three East Coast cities making their first appearance – Halifax, Moncton and St. John's.

In the **attached** graphic, you can see the locations of our conferences of the 1980s, with numbers indicating the year that they took place.

